

REMARKS

In the Official Action dated December 8, 2009 the Examiner rejected pending claims 1,3-5,8-13, 18, 29, 31-39 and 41-70. Applicant requests that the examiner reconsider the rejection of the claims.

As previously noted, the Examiner has shown no teaching or suggestion for why one of ordinary skill in the art would combine the numerous bits and pieces of references as the Examiner has done. The only response is that all of the references are in the mailing art . In other words, the Examiner contends that as long as an element is taught somewhere in some system that processes mail, then it would be obvious to combine that feature with any other feature taught by some other system that processes mail, as long as the result is predictable. Clearly, this is not an appropriate standard for assessing obviousness.

Although KSR stated that references can be combined even if there is no specific suggestion in the references to combine the teaching, there still must be some motivation to combine. And the Examiner has not provided any basis for combining the numerous pieces of the various prior art references except that they are all directed to mailing systems. That is akin to saying that all of the references are directed to electro-mechanical systems, therefore it would be obvious to combine the various elements.

Accordingly, unless the Examiner can provide some basis that provides a teaching or suggestion to combine the references as alleged by the Examiner, the various combination are an improper attempt by the Examiner to reconstruct the claims using Applicants' disclosure as a guide map, which is clearly inappropriate. Therefore, in the absence of actual bases of why one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make the various proposed combinations, the pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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